

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04406 031927Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----031928Z 059064 /45  
O R 031655Z JUN 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7927  
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4406

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB AND ASST. SECRETARIES ATHERTON & MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ILO, PLAB  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT RE ROLE OF TUNISIAN  
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO ILO CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 4382

1. AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE IT IS CLEAR THAT  
OPPOSITION TO THE ISSUES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO U.S. IS  
COMING BASICALLY AND BEING ORGANIZED BY A  
COALITION OF COMMUNIST AND ARAB COUNTRIES. WHILE MAJOR  
ISSUES ARE STILL UNDECIDED, THE STRENGTH OF THE OPPOSITION  
FORCES WHICH THIS COALITION IS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE  
COULD BECOME SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT US FROM ACHIEVING  
OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES DURING THE CONFERENCE.

2. AN EXAMPLE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNIST-ARAB COALITION  
IS THE ELECTION OF CHERIF (TUNISIAN GOVT) AS CHAIRMAN OF THE  
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE. CHERIF HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS  
ANTIPATHY TO U.S. OBJECTIVES AND DISREGARD FOR DUE  
PROCESS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN PREVIOUS ILO MEETINGS.  
ON THE BASIS OF OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, WE MAY  
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EXPECT HIM TO CHAIR THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE IN A HIGH  
HANDED MANNER, WITHOUT PROPER REGARD FOR THE STANDING  
ORDERS AND PROCEDURES OF THE ILO. WITH HIS  
ELECTION, THE CHANCES FOR UNACCEPTABLE COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS ON THE ISRAELI RESOLUTION, IF THIS MATTER  
DOES COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, HAVE INCREASED.

3. THE TWO TUNISIAN GOVT DELEGATES (ENNACEUR AND CHERIF) HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS COALITION. ENNACEUR IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN TIRELESS AND OUTSPOKEN IN HIS PROMOTION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ARAB-COMMUNIST COALITION (REFTEL).

4. IN VIEW OF THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE TUNISIAN GOVT DELEGATES, AND THE STRONG SUPPORT WHICH THE U.S. HAS GIVEN AND CONTINUES TO GIVE TO TUNISIA, USDEL RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY TUNIS BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE TUNISIAN GOVT REPRESENTATIVES ARE LEADERS IN THE OPPOSITION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THE ILO CONFERENCE WHICH MAY HAVE THE RESULT NOT ONLY OF ENCOURAGING THE U.S. TO LEAVE THE ILO, BUT ALSO MAY AFFECT ADVERSELY U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIPS. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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